

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L GABORONE 0262

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV RH

SUBJ: RHODESIA: RHODESIAN BLACK LEADER ON SANCTIONS AND POLITICS

1. SUMMARY: EMBOFF RECENTLY DISCUSSED EFFECTIVENESS OF SANCTIONS AND RHODESIAN POLITICAL SCENE WITH BLACK RESIDENT OF SALISBURY, T. MUSORA. AS EMPLOYEE OF RHODESIAN IMPORT FIRM, MUSORA TOLD US THAT HE SEES NUMEROUS VIOLATIONS OF SANCTIONS BY WESTERN AND EVEN AFRICAN COUNTRIES EVERY DAY. MUSORA TOLD US THAT HE IS ACTIVE IN POLITICAL WORK ON BEHALF OF NKOMO IN SALISBURY AREA. ACCORDING TO MUSORA, INFORMED RHODESIAN BLACKS EXPECT NOTHING TO COME OUT OF SALISBURY TALKS BUT CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT UK/US PLAN CAN WORK. END SUMMARY.

2. MUSORA TOLD US THAT, AS MERCHANDISE CHECKER FOR LARGE RHODESIAN IMPORT FIRM, HE SEES NUMEROUS VIOLATIONS OF UN ECONOMIC SANCTIONS EVERY DAY. ACCORDING TO MUSORA, SHIPMENTS OF
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GOODS FROM UK, US, FRG, FRANCE AND MALAWI ARRIVE DAILY IN SALISBURY AFTER TRANSSHIPMENT THROUGH SOUTH AFRICA. HE TOLD US THAT CRATES CARRYING SUCH GOODS ARE MARKED WITH SPECIAL CODES SO THAT SOUTH AFRICAN MIDDLEMENT SIMPLE EXPEDITE TRANSHIPMENT TO RHODESIA. GOODS ARRIVE IN SALISBURY IN THEIR ORIGINAL CARTONS, BUT RHODESIAN CUSTOMS AGENTS THEN DESTROY MARKINGS AND DOCTOR INVOICES TO CONCEAL ORIGIN OF GOODS.

3. ACCORDING TO MUSORA, GOODS REGULARLY RECEIVED FROM US AND OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES INCLUDE CHEMICALS, FERTILIZERS, SPARE PARTS FOR MACHINERY, CEMENT AND RAZOR BLADES. IT IS REPORTEDLY EVEN POSSIBLE TO SPECIAL ORDER PARTICULAR ITEMS FROM FIRMS IN WESTERN COUNTRIES WHO USE SOUTH AFRICAN MIDDLEMEN TO COVER UP VIOLATIONS OF RHODESIAN SANCTIONS.

4. EMBOFF FOUND MUSORA EAGER TO DISCUSS RHODESIAN POLITICS AND HIS OWN ROLE AS AN ACTIVE NKOMO SUPPORTER. HE TOLD US THAT NKOMO SUPPORTERS OPENLY WORK INSIDE RHODESIA UNDER ANC (ZIMBABWE) PARTY DESIGNATION. MUSORA TOLD US THAT HE SERVES AS ONE OF EIGHT ANC (ZIMBABWE) DISTRICT CHAIRMEN IN SALISBURY AREA. AS DISTRICT CHAIRMAN FOR SALISBURY AREA, MUSORA TOLD US HE SUPERVISES A 45-PERSON DISTRICT EXECUTIVE AND ELEVEN BRANCHES. EACH DISTRICT AND BRANCH ORGANIZATION IS HEADED BY AN EXECUTIVE COMPOSED OF 45 PERSONS (15 MEN, 15 WOMEN, 15 YOUTH).

5. WHILE HE COULD NOT GIVE A FIGURE FOR TOTAL NKOMO STRENGTH IN SALISBURY AREA, MUSORA NOTED THAT TOTAL NUMBER OF EXECUTIVE MEMBERS ALONE IS IMPRESSIVE FIGURE. HE TOLD US ANC (ZIMBABWE) RECENTLY REQUESTED PERMISSION TO HOLD RALLY OF 100,000 PEOPLE IN SALISBURY, BUT PERMISSION WAS GRANTED FOR GATHERIN OF ONLY 18,000. ACCORDING TO MUSORA, RHODESIAN AUTHORITIES THEN WITHDREW PERMISSION FOR RALLY ONLY 48 HOURS BEFORE IT WAS TO BE HELD. HE ATTRIBUTED THIS TO APPREHENSION BY RHODESIAN AUTHORITIES

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THAT LARGE PRO-NKOMO TURNOUT IN THE HEART OF MASHONALAND WOULD REFUTE CLAIMS THAT NKOMO STRENGTH IS LIMITED TO NDEBELE AREAS OF RHODESIA.

6. MUSORA TOLD US THAT INFORMED AFRICANS BELIEVE NOTHING GOOD WILL COME OUT OF THE SALISBURY TALKS. EVEN LOYAL SUPPORTERS OF MUZOREWA AND SITHOLE ARE NOT PROUD OF THEIR LEADERS' PARTICIPATION IN NEGOTIATIONS, AND MANY RHODESIAN BLACKS HAVE CHOSEN TO DISASSOCIATE THEMSELVES FROM POLITICS IN REACTION TO THE PERCEIVED CYNICISM OF THE SALISBURY TALKS. MUSORA WAS CONVINCED THAT AFRICANS INSIDE RHODESIA WOULD REPUDIATE AN INTERNAL SETTLEMENT AND THAT THE WAR WOULD BE INTENSIFIED IF SMITH AND HIS NATIONALIST COUNTERPARTS REACH AGREEMENT.

7. ACCORDING TO MUSORA, CHIRAU AND OTHER TRADITIONAL CHIEFS HAVE ATTEMPTED TO FORCE AFRICANS IN TRIBAL TRUST TERRITORIES TO JOIN ZUPO BY THREATENING THEM WITH LOSS OF THEIR RIGHTS TO FARM THE LAND. MUSORA BELIEVES ZUPO HAS MUCH TO GAIN FROM INTERNAL SETTLEMENT SINCE PARLIAMENTARIANS IT WOULD ELECT COMBINED WITH 28 WHITE PARLIAMENTARIANS COULD WELL FORM BLOCK LARGE ENOUGH TO ISOLATE MUZOREWA AND SITHOLE ADHERENTS WITHIN PROPOSED RHODESIAN PARLIAMENT.

8. IN CONTRAST TO HIS CONDEMNATION OF INTERNAL SETTLEMENT TALKS, MUSORA WAS ENTHUSIASTIC OVER UK/US PLAN. HE STATED THAT ATTENTION OF VIRTUALLY ALL INFORMED BLACKS IS ON MALTA, NOT SALISBURY. WHILE BLACKS DO NOT COMPLETELY TRUST BRITISH, US SUPPORT FOR PLAN GIVES IT GREATLY ENHANCED CREDIBILITY IN EYES OF BLACK RHODESIANS. MUSORA FURTHER STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF PERSONAL CONTRIBUTIONS OF PRESIDENT CARTER AND PARTICULARLY AMBASSADOR YOUNG TO US IMAGE AMONG BLACK RHODESIANS. HE DID POINT OUT SEVERAL RESERVATIONS ABOUT PROVISIONS OF UK/US PLAN PARTICULARLY THE PROPOSED COMPLETE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE POWERS OF RESIDENT COMMISSIONER DURING TRANSITION PERIOD.

9. WITH REGARD TO RELATIONS BETWEEN NKOMO AND MUGABE SUPPORTERS
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INSIDE RHODESIA, MUSORA DESCRIBED THEM AS CORRECT BUT DISTANT. TWO GROUPS (MUGABE SUPPORTERS ARE ORGANIZED AS "PEOPLE'S MOVEMENT") DO NOT HOLD JOINT MEETINGS OR DEVELOP JOINT STRATEGY. NEVERTHELESS, MUSORA DISCOUNTED PREDICTIONS OF ZAPU/ZANU CIVIL WAR AFTER ADVENT OF MAJORITY RULE BECAUSE CENTRAL AUTHORITIES WOULD BE, IN HIS OPINION, STRONG ENOUGH TO QUICKLY CRUSH ANY OPPOSITION.

10. COMMENT: MUSORA SPOKE WITH CONFIDENCE AND COMMAND OF HIS SUBJECT THROUGHOUT INTERVIEW. HE IS WELL PLACED TO COMMENT BOTH ON CIRCUMVENTION OF SANCTIONS AND POLITICAL OPINION AMONG RHODESIAN BLACKS.
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